

## Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Mabel Hubbard Bell, February 13, 1877, with transcript

Boston, Mass. Feb. 13th, 1877. My darling pet,

I am so sorry I did not go to Cambridge this evening for I have just remembered that I am to speak on the subject of the Telephone — before the Academy of Arts and Sciences tomorrow so that I shall not see you tomorrow.

I have just written a long letter to your Papa — (There! will that satisfy you? — since you object to “father”!!!) — and have also written to Gov. Howard & Mr. Converse proposing an immediate conference in Washington.

I have also sent a special note of enquiry to Mr. Whipple — Sec. of the Essex Instit. — asking his advice in regard to repeating my lecture in Salem as many persons were unable to gain admittance last night. If there would be any chance of success — I should be willing to repeat the lecture for my own benefit.

500 tickets at 50¢ a piece would bring me in \$250 which would repay me for one night's work. Indeed one or two public lectures might bring me in enough money to be independent in the matter of foreign patents &c. What do you think?

( Would it be “beneath my dignity”(!) to make \$200 a night by lecturing — and in this way raise enough money to enable me to devote myself more exclusively 2 to the perfection of the invention. My profession yields me about \$5 for one hours work. If I can make \$200 in the same time — I think it would be a good plan to give say 2 or at most 3 public lectures in places within telegraphic or rather “telephonic” range of Exeter Place and in this way render myself independent of my profession during the present spring.

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I don't look beyond that — for I hope to have everything perfect before then — and be beginning to reap the rewards of the invention by that time. ) What do you say? Shall I lecture on my own account as a speculation? You are my dictator now you know! The Telephonic despatch to the Globe shows that the instruments — even in their present form — are perfect enough for immediate use — and I do wish your father would decide at once — what to do with the invention. Applications for Telephones continue to pour in — and we could be making money now if we chose.

By the bye — will you write some consolatory remarks for me to send to my madman?! — I don't know what to say myself.

What day would you like to go to Haverhill to see Berta & Grace? Next Saturday?

By the bye — can you remember what it was that Grace gave me as a Christmas present? I cannot find the nice little note she sent ot me in Washington — and I have not seen her present. 3 Was it given to you in New York? And can you remember what it was? I want to thank her for it — and I feel ashamed not to have done so before.

With much love. Your own Alec. Miss Mabel C. Hubbard Cambridge.